

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY USSR  
SUBJECT Ammunition Storage Area  
Near Karachev  
PLACE ACQUIRED  
DATE ACQUIRED BY  
DATE OF INFO

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1. The 28th Ordnance Depot (28-oy Artilleriivskiy Sklad) was primarily an ammunition loading area. no completely assembled rounds of ammunition were shipped there from the outside; instead, various ammunition components were sent there and complete rounds loaded and assembled. It was a storage depot only insofar as the completed rounds were kept there until shipped.
2. Besides the buildings where the rounds were loaded and assembled, there was also a two-story building which housed a laboratory of about 20 rooms. I do not know what kind of work was done there, but very frequently people worked late into the night.
3. An army colonel was in charge of both the depot and the army garrison. Among the army units located in the immediate area were an antiaircraft regiment, a field artillery regiment, a rifle battalion, a separate artillery battalion, a cavalry troop, and an infantry school. Near Karachev there was a testing range for 85mm artillery guns which were produced in Bryansk, but I do not know whether any of the rounds produced at the depot were tested there.
4. the various ammunition components were shipped from the following places: fuzes from Saratov; primer cups from Kazan; casings from Kurgan and somewhere in the Urals; the projectiles and powder from somewhere in the Urals. Among the complete rounds loaded and assembled were 85mm, 100mm, 122mm, and 152mm artillery shells, aerial bombs weighing from 200-500 kilograms, land mines, hand grenades, and rifle cartridges. No rockets or rocket motors were assembled there and no components of any kind were manufactured on the premises.

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Fuzes arrived for loading direct from fuze plants. [redacted] the specific fuzes used, except that there were aerial bomb fuzes and artillery fuzes. There were no rocket fuzes. [redacted] whether projectiles arrived already loaded or whether they were empty when received and filled with explosive at the depot. However, inasmuch as complete loading and assembling of rounds was done at the depot, I would guess that they arrived empty and then were filled with explosive on the premises.

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5. There were from 300-400 people employed in loading and assembling rounds. The work was done on a conveyor system which insured a steady and rapid flow of completed rounds; however, I cannot estimate the amount of production. Completed rounds were packed in wooden boxes and sealed immediately; and prior to shipment the seal was checked. [redacted] the following packing procedures: 85mm artillery rounds were packed eight per box; 100mm and 122mm artillery rounds were packed four per box; 152mm artillery rounds were packed two per box; and aerial bombs were packed individually. [redacted] the markings which appeared on the various rounds. I do know that the markings which appeared on the casing of the rounds were duplicated on one side of the box in which they were packed and the markings on the projectile were duplicated on the other side of the box.

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6. [redacted]

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